

The objective of these al-Qaida attacks is to reignite the sectarian violence in Baghdad and breaking support for the war here at home. That was the goal of al-Zarqawi, whom we were fortunate to be able to take out of the fight, and that is the fight now of the remaining al-Qaida extremists in Iraq. General Petraeus explained it this way:

Iraq is, in fact, the central front of al-Qaida's global campaign.

It just boggles my mind, Mr. President, for some of us to stand here on the floor and say we ought to withdraw our troops from Iraq when, in fact, al-Qaida—the enemy that hit innocent Americans and killed 3,000 of them on September 11, 2001—considers Iraq to be the central front in their campaign against the West. Al-Qaida's role makes the conflict in Iraq far more complex than a simple fight between Iraqis. Many also belong to the same terrorist network, as I said, that attacked us on September 11, 2001. Were we to leave prematurely, were we to leave a power vacuum in Iraq, al-Qaida would no doubt, as they did in Afghanistan earlier, use that power vacuum as an opportunity to regroup, to plan, to train, to recruit, and then to export additional terrorist attacks against the United States here on this continent.

We need to give our troops all of the equipment and training and protection they need to prevail. Without a war funding bill, the military has to take money from some other account—notably, the Air Force or Navy—just in order to make sure the Army has the resources they need, so the troops can have the equipment they need, so they can rotate back on a timely basis and come home to the loving arms of their families, to repair existing equipment. And worst of all, in one sense, failing to send this money on a timely basis to the military hurts the military families who are waiting behind, anxious, as we all understand, for the welfare and safety of their loved ones. Our troops and their families deserve better.

So I hope that after the last 86 days, which have been characterized by political theater and gamesmanship, where some have been more focused on the 2008 election and trying to find ways to gain political advantage, I hope Republicans and Democrats, the legislative branch and executive branch, can come together and do what we should have done months ago—get the funds to the troops as soon as possible, without the surrender deadline, without tying the hands of our military commanders and making their opportunity for success impossible, and without the porkbarrel spending that demeans the noble sacrifice of these brave men and women.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and yield back our remaining time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WEBB). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, we yield back all morning business time.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG USER FEE AMENDMENTS OF 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1082, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1082) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Landrieu amendment No. 1004, to require the Food and Drug Administration to permit the sale of baby turtles as pets so long as the seller uses proven methods to effectively treat salmonella.

Dorgan amendment No. 990, to provide for the importation of prescription drugs.

AMENDMENT NO. 1010 TO AMENDMENT NO. 990

(Purpose: To protect the health and safety of the public)

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask that it be stated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, and Mr. MENENDEZ, proposes an amendment numbered 1010 to amendment 990.

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ PROTECTION OF HEALTH AND SAFETY.

This title, and the amendments made by this title, shall become effective only if the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies to Congress that the implementation of this title (and amendments) will—

(1) pose no additional risk to the public's health and safety; and

(2) result in a significant reduction in the cost of covered products to the American consumer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am offering this amendment for myself, as well as for these cosponsors: Mr. CARPER, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, and Mr. MENENDEZ. This is an amendment to the amendment proposed by Mr. DORGAN.

Improving the health and quality of life for Americans is very important to all of us, and access to safe and effective prescription drugs is a major step

in accomplishing these goals. With recent scientific advances, a number of medical therapies have been made available to treat and, in some cases, to cure diseases. We want Americans to continue to have access to safe and effective drugs that are approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

But we must not create opportunities for potentially dangerous drug products from foreign countries to reach the American consumer. For example, counterfeit products, those that have been tampered with or those of unknown origin, should not be brought into this country. I am concerned that allowing the importation of prescription drugs would allow such risks to become more likely.

The amendment proposed by the Senator from North Dakota will put in jeopardy the process we now have to ensure the safety of prescription medications and protect the health of the American people.

I am offering this second-degree amendment to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to certify that the importation of drug products will not pose additional risks to Americans and will, indeed, lower costs to consumers.

If, as some argue, a policy of importation is safe and will reduce costs, this amendment should not be a problem.

We have debated this issue before on several previous occasions. For example, during the consideration of annual appropriations bills for the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies, when considering the Greater Access to Pharmaceuticals Act, and even during the debate and passage of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, a similar amendment to require the safety of imported drugs was considered and unanimously approved each time.

In all these instances, the Senate has adopted this amendment by a unanimous vote. The safety of the American consumer must be our No. 1 priority. These safeguards should also be applied to this proposal.

We should be certain that any change we make in the law does not result in less protection in terms of the safety of the drugs supplied to the American people and will, indeed, make prescription drugs more affordable. Liberalization of protections that are designed to keep unsafe drugs out of this country, especially considering the terrorist threats we face now, should occur only if the necessary safeguards are in place. This amendment will ensure that the concerns of the last two administrations regarding safety and cost-effectiveness are addressed prior to the implementation of this proposal.

Counterfeiting of drugs has become a more common practice throughout the world, and the transshipment of these counterfeit products through Canada is one of the most serious dangers we face. The Canadian Government itself has said that drug products shipped to